



EST. **NORTHVIEW** 1980
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Leader's Guide – Mar 21/22 2026

GATHER + GROW

Deeply rooted by being formed through the word of God.

This biblically based content overlaps with the current weekend teaching at your Northview campus and positions you, as a group, to be shaped by studying Scripture.

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- **Pray.** Acknowledge God's presence + ask for his help to hear what he's saying through the text.
 - **Share a takeaway from the March 21/22 sermon.**
 - **Facilitate a brief study of 2 Cor 2:12-17**

Start the conversation with an 'Icebreaker.'

What smell elicits a specific memory or experience for you?

Study Step 1: Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Familiarize yourself with this section of verses. (Note characters, commands, key/repeated words!)

Study Step 2: Understand Their Story – (With answer key + leaders notes)

Ask *observation questions* to understand what the author is communicating to the original audience.

- **Take a look at 2 Cor 2:12-13**
 - Why did Paul go to Troas? While there, who opened a door for him?
 - Despite the open opportunity to spread the Gospel, why did Paul leave?

- **Take a look at 2 Cor 2:14-17** where Paul, in remembering his situation, gives thanks to God.
 - Like his earlier claims about God's promises as 'yes' in Christ, what two reasons does Paul connect to his thanksgiving to God in v 14?
 - Because of being 'in Christ' what are we towards God?
 - What effect on those around us does Paul associate with being the aroma of Christ?
 - Contrast the two types of people who are sufficient or insufficient in v 17.
- *Reflection question: Is your life a fragrance of delight to God? Do people smell it? Do people even know you belong to Christ?*
- Take these observations into the next step below.

Study Step 3: Connect To God's Story – (With answer key + leaders notes)

Ask questions to understand how this text fits in the larger gospel story.

We've selected a few connections that are here to a) expand on the content of the passage and/or b) clarify the content of the passage.

- 2 Cor 2:13 is the first mention of Titus in the book. Why would Paul leave such an open opportunity 'from the Lord' in Troas to find Titus? **Read 2 Cor 7:5-7** where Paul comes back to his trip to give us more insight
 - 2 Cor 7:5 notes that 'even in' to indicate that back in Troas, Paul also 'had no rest' (2 Cor 7:5). What ends up bringing Paul comfort? What does this seem to highlight about Paul's concern in 2 Cor 2:12-13?
- Historical context: Paul's reference to Christ's 'triumphal procession' and fragrance speaks to the Roman triumphant parades when they conquered territory, during which they would burn incense to their gods. There would be the soldiers leading, who smelled the fragrance of victory, and those who followed were those captured, who smelled the incense as inevitable death or slavery. By contrast, by sharing the Gospel we proclaim God's victory in Christ over all principalities and powers so that people who are saved smell the Gospel as sweet, or a smell of death to those perishing if they continue following those powers instead of Christ.
- **For further study on your own:**
 - **Read Matthew 7:24-27, Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 3:11-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, John 15:5-6.** What are the contrasts (imagery, outcomes) between those who receive Christ and those who do not in these verses?

Step 4: Apply To Our Story

Ask questions to discern what God is telling us to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.

- Like Paul's contrast, none of us are adequate or sufficient to receive and share the message of the Gospel. Who needs the Gospel in your friend, family, and work circles? Take time to pray for them (5x5x5 cards), and make a plan to reach this person over the next few months (start by praying continually, alongside prayer start meeting with them more regularly, thirdly share the Gospel with them).
- Where are you inconsistent in representing Christ? Like others, where do you use God for wrongful gain ('peddlers of God's word'—v. 17a)? Where can you hold one another accountable to 'sincerity' (17b) and consistency with obeying God's word so as to live lives of integrity?
- Do people know you are a Christian? Do you smell?
If we truly have been saved by God in Christ, Paul challenges us by saying we **are** a fragrance. That is, people **will** notice Christ in and through our presence. Take time repenting of where Christ is not smelled on you, as well as making a plan to do one thing this month to make Christ more clearly present in your life that outsiders could see (obviously we don't do things in order for us to be noticed, but that when people do notice, they see Christ in us, or smell Christ on us).

GO

Deeply rooted by participating in the mission of God.

These culturally relevant applications are meant, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, to prompt actions that bring the life of God's kingdom into us and out to others.

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- Pray for those far from God that you personally know, by name.
 - Is there something that seems especially relevant for us to do personally based on our discussion?
 - Is there something we as a group should plan to do together based on our discussion?
 - Is there something we as a group should plan to do to spend time with someone who doesn't yet follow Jesus? Or to make/strengthen connections with our neighbours?